

TIMBER SALE PROSPECTUS

Sale Name :	heaberlin	Type of Sale :	Premeasured
National Forest :	Cherokee	Ranger District :	Watauga
Bidding Method :	Sealed Bid	Bid Guarantee :	\$1,500.00

Location of Bid Opening : Watauga Ranger District 4400 Unicoi Drive Unicoi TN

Date : 07/07/2016

Time : 01:00 PM

1. INTRODUCTION. This prospectus furnishes prospective bidders with information not contained in the published advertisement and is designed to enable bidders to decide whether or not to further investigate the sale. The prospectus is not a legally binding document, but is offered to provide general information about a sale. The contract does not include descriptions, estimates, and other data in this prospectus, unless otherwise stated. In the event that the prospectus contains an error or contradicts the sample contract, the contract governs. Bidders are urged to examine the timber sale and make their own estimates. Timber sale Contract 2400-6T will be used. Inspect the sale area and the sample contract before submitting a bid. Obtain the appraisal, other information on the timber, and conditions of sale and bidding at Forest Service offices listed above and in the named attached advertisement.

2. BIDDING. This is a Sealed Bid sale. Bidders must submit sealed bids on prepared forms they can obtain from Forest Service offices listed above and in the attached advertisement. The forms include instructions for bidding and submission of the required certifications. A bid guarantee must be included with the bid in the form of cash, a bid bond on form FS-6500-13 (4/82) or later, certification of annual bid bond allocation on form FS-6500-13a (4/82) or later, an irrevocable letter of credit, a certified check, bank draft, cashiers check, official bank check, or bank or postal money order payable to the Forest Service, USDA in the amount specified above and in the bid form. The bid guarantee shall be returned to each bidder whose bid is not accepted.

3. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF TIMBER. Refer to the sample contract and sale area map attached to the sample contract for legal location of sale area, location of payment units, location of cutting units, the acreage of sale area, and the cutting unit acreage.

THE FOLLOWING GENERAL LOCATION, ROUTES OF ACCESS, ACREAGES, AND OTHER SPECIAL LOCATION DATA DO NOT SUPERSEDE THE SALE AREA MAP OR SAMPLE CONTRACT.

The sale area is located on the Cherokee National Forest, Watauga Ranger District, approximately 8 miles north of Shady Valley TN in Johnson County, including about 135 acres, of which 70 acres are marked and/or designated for cutting. The method of cut is 70 acres of thinning. This is a premeasured timber sale. The following list of included timber by method of cut is for information only. Refer to the sample contract for specific requirements. All trees that meet utilization standards listed in AT2 within individual tree marked payment units (1) (CTM as shown on the SALE AREA MAP) that are designated for cutting have been marked by paints spots below stump height and at about eye level. Sawtimber trees have two spots on the stump and small roundwood trees have one spot. Individual trees shall be cut so as to leave paint visible on the stump. Unit boundaries are marked in Orange paint.

4. TIMBER QUANTITIES AND RATES. The quality, size, cut per acre, and product suitability of the timber are estimates based on detailed cruise information on file and available for inspection at the Forest Service offices listed above and in the advertisement. VOLUME QUANTITIES LISTED HEREIN ARE MADE AVAILABLE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT VALUES SHOWN ARE FOREST SERVICE ESTIMATES AND ARE NOT GUARANTEED. For these reasons, bidders are urged to examine the timber sale area and make their own estimates.

THE MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE BID RATE IS STATED IN THE ATTACHED BID FORM. THESE RATES ARE EFFECTIVE AT THE TIME OF ADVERTISEMENT.

Estimated Quantities and Rates per Unit of Measure

							Required Deposits	
Species	Product	Unit of Measure	Estimated Quantities	Average DBH	Advertised Rates	Base Rates	Slash Disposal	Road Maintenance
Hardwoods	Sawtimber	CCF	4.00	15.8	\$22.93	\$8.00	\$0.00	\$0.97
Hardwood - Low Grade	Sawtimber	CCF	8.00	15.4	\$3.30	\$3.30	\$0.00	\$0.97
N. Red Oak	Sawtimber	CCF	2.00	18.8	\$69.30	\$8.00	\$0.00	\$0.97
Oak	Sawtimber	CCF	336.00	16.9	\$22.93	\$8.00	\$0.00	\$0.97
Popl, Bassw & Cucumb	Sawtimber	CCF	195.00	17.1	\$24.86	\$8.00	\$0.00	\$0.97
Eastern W. Pine	Sawtimber	CCF	236.00	18.1	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$0.00	\$0.97
Hardwoods	Pulpwood	CCF	194.00	10.9	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$0.00	\$0.97
Eastern W. Pine	Pulpwood	CCF	15.00	N/A	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$0.00	\$0.97
Required Removal at Fixed Rates								
White Oak	Sawtimber	CCF	unestimated	12.1	\$69.30	\$8.00	\$0.00	\$0.97
TOTAL		CCF	990.00				\$0.00	\$960.30

Estimated Knutson-Vandenberg deposit for sale area improvement work in a total amount of \$14,000.00 is included in total timber value.

5. PERIOD OF CONTRACT. The normal operating season covers the period between 03/15 and 12/15. Contract termination date is 12/31/2018. Extensions of this contract may be granted only when the purchaser has met specified conditions.

If an appeal or lawsuit is filed challenging the decision to award this contract or upon determination by the Regional Forester that conditions existing on this timber sale are the same as, or nearly the same as, conditions existing on other timber sale(s) in appeal or litigation, Contracting Officer may delay award or reject all bids. If delay in award is for 30 days or more during Normal Operating Season after bid opening, Contracting Officer shall, upon award, adjust the contract term to include additional calendar days in one or more Normal Operating Seasons equal to the time award is delayed during Normal Operating Season.

The purchaser must submit a Plan of Operations to the Contracting Officer for approval before operations begin or within 60 days of sale award, whichever is earlier. The plan must show how the purchaser plans to complete the contract by the termination date. In addition to the Plan of Operations, the purchaser must submit an annual Operating Schedule before commencing operations. This schedule will include the anticipated major activities and needs for harvest. This annual Operating Schedule does not require concurrence of the Forest Service.

6. PAYMENT. Payment for timber and any required deposits for slash disposal or road maintenance are required in advance of cutting. The Purchaser may transfer purchaser credit into the contract, or provide an acceptable payment guarantee prior to cutting. Payment for required deposits must be a cash payment. The purchaser shall make advance deposits in accordance with provision B(T)4.212 - Advance Deposits.

The high bidder whose bid is accepted shall, at the time the contract is signed and returned by the bidder, make a downpayment pursuant to Title 36, Section 223.49, of the Code of Federal Regulations. The Contracting Officer will notify the high bidder of the amount necessary to make this payment. In no case shall the downpayment be less than 10 percent of the total advertised value plus 20 percent of the bid premium. After receipt of the downpayment and a satisfactory performance bond and upon execution of the timber sale contract, the Forest Service will return the bid guarantee. A cash bid guarantee may be applied to the downpayment at the request of the purchaser. The purchaser cannot apply the amount deposited as a downpayment to cover other obligations due on the sale until conditions stated in the contract for release of downpayment have been met. Refer to the sample contract for the specific conditions.

7. PERFORMANCE BOND. A performance bond is required. The penal sum of the bond will be 10 percent of the total bid value of the sale, rounded up to the nearest \$100 when the total bid value is \$10,000 or less; and rounded up to the nearest \$1,000 when the total bid value exceeds \$10,000 or \$2,000.00 whichever is greater. If an irrevocable letter of credit is used to secure the performance bond, the termination of the letter of credit must be at least 6 months past the contract termination date.

8. SPECIFIED ROADS. Not Applicable.

9. ROAD MAINTENANCE. Purchaser shall perform or pay for road maintenance work, commensurate with purchaser's use, on roads controlled by Forest Service, and used by purchaser in connection with this sale. Road maintenance requirements are based on the predicted haul route. Any change in the purchaser's actual haul route may necessitate a change in the roads to be maintained and/or in the amount of required deposit for road maintenance. Required deposits for road maintenance are listed in Section 4 and in the sample contract. Maintenance specifications are in the sample contract.

10. INAPPLICABLE STANDARD PROVISIONS. See sample contract.

11. SPECIAL PROVISIONS. See sample contract.

12. SET-ASIDE SALES. Not Applicable.

13. LOG EXPORT AND SUBSTITUTION RESTRICTIONS. Not Applicable.

14. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMPLIANCE REVIEW. If the total bid value plus required deposits for this contract exceeds \$10 million, before award, the Forest Service shall request an equal employment opportunity compliance review of the high bidder to determine compliance with the provisions of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended by Executive Order 11375 of October 13, 1967 and Executive Order No. 12086 of October 5, 1978.

15. AWARD. The Contracting Officer is required to make a determination of bidder responsibility as stated in Title 36, Section 223.101, of the Code of Federal Regulations.

To determine a purchaser to be responsible, a Contracting Officer must find that:

- a. The purchaser has adequate financial resources to perform the contract or the ability to obtain them;
- b. The purchaser is able to perform the contract within the contract term taking into consideration all existing contracts and Governmental business commitments;
- c. The purchaser has a satisfactory performance record on timber sale contracts. A prospective purchaser that is or recently has been seriously deficient in contract performance shall be presumed not to be responsible, unless the Contracting Officer determines that the circumstances were beyond the purchaser's control and were not created through improper actions by the purchaser or affiliate, or that the purchaser has taken appropriate corrective action. Past failure to apply sufficient tenacity and perseverance to perform acceptably under a contract is strong evidence that a purchaser is not a responsible contractor. The Contracting Officer shall consider the number of contracts involved and extent of deficiency of each in making this evaluation;
- d. The purchaser has a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics;
- e. The purchaser has or is able to obtain equipment and supplies suitable for logging the timber and for meeting the resource protection provisions of the contract;
- f. The purchaser is otherwise qualified and eligible to receive an award under applicable laws and regulations.

Bidders, by signing the bid form, certify that, to the best of bidder's knowledge the bidder will meet the requirements in 36 CFR 223.101, determination of purchaser responsibility, and, if awarded this contract, that bidder will complete the timber sale contract and any modifications thereof in accordance with its terms including requirements to purchase, cut, and remove included timber.

16. FALSE STATEMENTS ACT. Bidders, by signing the bid form, certify that they are aware that bidder is subject to the penalties prescribed in 18 U.S.C. 1001, Chapter 47, Fraud and False Statements (P.L. 104-45). The Act states "whoever, in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals or covers up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact, or makes any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations, or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or entry, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both."

17. DAMAGES. This contract shall be terminated for breach pursuant to paragraph 16, 19, and/or 21 of the bid form and the terms of the sample contract if: 1) bidder fails to execute a timber sale contract, furnish a downpayment, or furnish a satisfactory performance bond within 30 days of the award letter's date; or 2) bidder is found to have violated the False Statements Act in making any statement or certification on the bid form including not meeting purchaser responsibility requirements, and bidder has made a false statement. The bid guarantee shall be retained, in whole or in part, by the Forest Service to satisfy any damages that may be assessed.

18. SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT CERTIFICATION. Non-procurement debarments and suspensions are governed by the Government-wide common rules (7 CFR 3017).

These rules require each timber sale purchaser, to submit a certification for itself, its principals, and its affiliates when bidding on sales. The bidder must designate its status regarding debarment, suspension, and other matters as specified on the bid form. The bidder, by signing the bid form, certifies this status. An explanation for not submitting a certification may be submitted. The Contracting Officer will determine whether the explanation provides sufficient reason for permitting participation in the bidding. Also, as a timber sale purchaser enters into transactions with subcontractors, these subcontractors must certify their eligibility. The certification titled "Subcontractor Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility, and Voluntary Exclusion" must be provided to subcontractors, but completed certifications are not required to be submitted with bid forms. Purchaser must keep these subcontractor certification forms on file for review by the Forest Service, if requested.

The certification forms and instructions for subcontractor transactions are provided as an addendum to the bid form.

19. OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA) LOGGING REGULATIONS. Conduct of operations on this timber sale is subject to inspection for compliance with the logging operations regulations at 29 CFR 1910.266 by OSHA. This standard is applicable to the entire logging industry wherever logging operations occur. Information is available to assist purchasers to ensure compliance with the logging operations regulations during conduct of this timber sale from the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U. S. Dept. of Labor, OSHA, 2002 Richard Jones Road Suite C-205, Nashville, TN 37215 615-781-5423.

20. GENERAL. Corporations submitting an offer under this solicitation must include form AD-3030, Representations Regarding Felony Conviction and Tax Delinquent Status For Corporate Applicants. Copies of this form may be obtained from the Forest Service office shown on page 1 of this prospectus or electronically at: <http://www.ocio.usda.gov/policy-directives-records-forms/forms-management/approved-computer-generated-forms>.

The Purchaser shall be required to perform or pay for road maintenance on roads used by Purchaser that are under Forest Service maintenance responsibility. Road requirements stated herein are based on the predicted haul route. Any change in the Purchaser's actual haul route may necessitate a change in the roads to be maintained or in the amount of required deposit for road maintenance. The estimated cost of road maintenance has been allowed for in the appraisal.

Road Use and Maintenance - Trucks used in hauling timber from this sale over roads under Forest Service jurisdiction are subject to State load, weight, length, height, and width limitations. Any exceptions to these limitations are posted by individual road or road segment. Prospective Purchasers are urged to check out any questions on haul route with the District Ranger before submitting bid.

Purchaser shall perform routine maintenance on all of the following roads used by Purchaser. Where so indicated, maintenance includes 1) general maintenance including keeping the road clear of slides and other obstructions, keeping drainage structures clear of debris and functioning and repairing damage to road structures, 2) surface blading, and 3) spot surfacing.

Purchaser shall make required deposits for road maintenance on the roads listed below:
Forest Service road 69 @ \$0.97 per CCF

Prospective purchasers must allow for the cost of specified road work in their bids. No purchaser credit will be received for specified road work.

Site Specific Protection Measures CT6.24# - There are 3 sites requiring special protection within the cutting unit boundaries.

CT2.355# - Individual trees - Included timber is marked with BLUE paint.

PROSPECTIVE PURCHASERS ARE URGED TO EXAMINE THE TIMBER AND SALE AREA CONDITIONS ON THE GROUND AND TO EXAMINE ALL REQUIREMENTS IN THE SAMPLE CONTRACT BEFORE SUBMITTING A BID

The Forest Service will have a show-me-trip to examine the sale area on July 17, 2016 at 9:00am. Interested parties will meet at the Watauga Ranger District, 4400 unicoi drive, Unicoi TN at exit 32, hwy 26 in Unicoi TN. Call 423-735-1500 for information.